



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
on the  
**HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH**  
for the year 1955

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M. L. SUTCLIFFE, T.D., D.P.H.  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH





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## BOROUGH OF TEWKESBURY

*To the Mayor,  
Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Tewkesbury.*

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report on the Hygiene Conditions and Vital Statistics of the Borough for the year 1955.

It includes the report of the Sanitary Inspector and is compiled to conform with Articles 6 (3) and 17 (5) of the Sanitary Officer (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and it incorporates the requirements of the Ministry of Health Circular 17/55 dated 23rd November, 1955.

In accordance with instructions the distribution of this report is a wide one and includes:—

The Ministry of Health.

The County Medical Officer of Health.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

The Ministry of Labour and National Service.

The main duties of the Corporation are in connection with housing, water supplies, sewage disposal and refuse collection and it is most satisfactory to be able to report that major troubles with regard to the last three are practically things of the past. Housing is progressing well, but it is a very difficult problem in this ancient Borough.

From the more medical aspects, it will be seen that the birth, infantile mortality and death rates are rather higher than those for England and Wales, but it is satisfactory to note that there have been no deaths of mothers in child-birth since 1944.

I must thank the Sanitary Inspector, who although new to the Borough, has familiarised himself very quickly with local conditions and much of this report is his work. This Department also gets the greatest assistance from other members of the Borough staff.

Finally, my thanks are due to the Mayor and the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their courtesy and the support they give to recommendations of this Department.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

MAURICE L. SUTCLIFFE,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

May, 1956.



## **PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF**

M. L. SUTCLIFFE, T.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.P.M., Medical Officer of Health to the Tewkesbury Borough, Gloucester Rural and Newent Rural Joint M.O.H. Committee, and County Divisional Medical Officer of Health for No. 5 Division (Gloucester Area Health Sub-Committee).

J. H. RHODES, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Meat and Other Foods and Petroleum Officer under the Petroleum Consolidation Acts.

(Resigned: March, 1955).

J. B. COMPTON, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.A., Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Meat and Other Foods and Petroleum Officer under the Petroleum Consolidation Act.

(Appointed: April, 1955).

### **Adoptive Legislation in force in the Borough**

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 75—Provision of Regulation Dustbins—adopted 21st March, 1938.

### **By-Laws**

Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures—adopted 1st November, 1938.

Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air—adopted 21st April, 1952.

Building—adopted 20th April, 1953.

## VITAL STATISTICS

These statistics give particulars as to the births and deaths in the Borough, together with certain rates which are compared with those for England and Wales.

A detailed list of the causes of death will be found in Table 24.

**Table 1**                      **Infantile Births and Deaths**

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Com- bined Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Live Births ...	59	36	95	2	2	4	99
Still Births ...	1	1	2	—	—	—	2
Infant Deaths:							
(a) 0-4 weeks	3	—	3	—	—	—	3
(b) 4 weeks-1 yr.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

**Table 2**                      **Deaths**

	Male	Female	Total
Total Deaths ...	48	42	90

**Table 3**                      **Birth and Death Rates**

	Tewkesbury Borough	England and Wales
Crude Live Birth Rate per 1,000 pop'n	18.4	} 15.0
*Corrected Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population ...	17.1	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births	20.2	23.1
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	16.7	} 11.7
*Corrected „ „ „ „	15.5	
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births ...	30.9	24.9
Death Rate of Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births ...	31.5	} not available
Death Rate of Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births ...	Nil	
Death Rate from Puerperal Causes per 1,000 total births ...	Nil	0.64

\* NOTE.—The Corrected Birth and Death Rates are obtained by multiplying the Crude Rates by the factors 0.93 and 0.93 respectively. These factors are supplied by the Registrar-General and serve to make the Crude Rates for the Borough comparable with the Rates for the country as a whole.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH

Area (in acres): 2,614 (including 96 acres of water).

Population (Registrar-General's estimate of Home Population, mid-1955): 5,380.

Number of inhabited houses (31st December, 1955) according to rate books: 1,771.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £141 (gross).

General rate, 1955-56: 27s. 2d. (County precept: 17s. 6d.).

### Social Conditions and Chief Industries

The Borough, though small, is of great interest and is much patronised by tourists.

At the date of the first census in 1801 the population was 4,199 and apparently the main industry then was the manufacture of cotton stockings and the production of a very excellent mustard. At this date, the population of Cheltenham was 3,076 and that of Gloucester 7,261.

The largest industry is the hotel and catering trade and the other industries in the Borough are as follows:—

Messrs. Dowty Group, approximately 260 employees.

Borough Flour Mills, approximately 130 employees.

Messrs. Blackwells Bearings (light engineering), approx. 80 employees.

Messrs. Bathursts (boat building), approx. 30 employees.

There are a number of smaller firms each employing up to 20 persons.

Many residents work outside the Borough in Gloucester, Cheltenham and Ashchurch.

### Unemployment

Mr. B. W. J. Wheeler, Manager of the local Employment Exchange, kindly supplied the following information:

#### I. UNEMPLOYMENT

Throughout the year the general level of unemployment remained very low with a monthly average of 12.2 males and 4.4 females. This figure is even lower than that shown in previous years and in most cases the unemployment was of short duration. In fact it is usually possible to place a man or woman in fresh employment without actually registering him or her as unemployed.



## 2. EMPLOYMENT

The general employment position remains highly satisfactory and the constant demands for labour, both skilled and unskilled, far exceed any possible supply.

One very significant feature is the large number of elderly persons placed in employment during the year, and the labour position is now so acute that, provided a man or woman is reasonably fit, age is of very little consequence. This healthy employment position is, of course, mainly due to the rapid growth of the engineering industry in the area and, in order to meet the large demands, large numbers of workers are brought in from surrounding areas, including Evesham, Pershore and Worcester.

# GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH

## Laboratory Facilities

The examination of pathological specimens and analyses of samples of milk and ice-cream are carried out at the laboratory of the Gloucester Royal Hospital under the Medical Research Council's scheme. (There is no charge for this work.)

Analyses of water and sewage samples taken by this Department are carried out by the Council's Analysts, Messrs. Ellis and Turner, Public Analysts, Gloucester.

Water analyses in respect of the Cheltenham and Gloucester Joint Water Board's Works are carried out by the Resident Chemist.

## Hospitals

The Council have no responsibility for arranging hospital treatment, except with regard to old people in need of care and attention and dealt with under the National Assistance Acts.

Infectious disease cases are admitted to Gloucester City Isolation Hospital at Over (Gloucester, Stroud and Forest Hospital Management Committee).

## Ambulance Facilities

There is one ambulance at the Ambulance Station in Mill Street with an establishment of three full-time drivers. In emergencies, ambulances from Cheltenham are available. This service is under the administration of the County Council. Infectious disease cases are transported by the Isolation Hospital's Ambulances.

## Nursing in the Home

The two District Nurses who undertake midwifery and general nursing in the Borough and the Parishes of Ashchurch, Tredington and Twyning, work under the County Health Committee, while the local Voluntary Association supervises secretarial and nurses' welfare matters.

## Home Help Service

This service is administered by the Area Health Sub-Committee of the County Council.

The following types of cases are assisted and the figures on 31st December, 1955, were:—

Maternity Cases ...	...	...	Nil
General Sickness	...	...	5
Tuberculosis	...	...	3
Chronic Sick or Old Age	...	...	18
Total ...			26

This total of 26 compares with a total of 25 in December, 1954. The scheme is very popular and it undoubtedly means that many of the cases cared for are able to remain in their homes instead of having to be sent to hospitals or institutions. This applies specially to cases of chronic sickness and old age.

There were, on 31st December, 1955, 17 part-time Home Helps in the Borough.

### **Tewkesbury Old People's Welfare Committee**

I am indebted to Mrs. Wyatt, the Honorary Organising Secretary, for the following information and feel that she and the voluntary committee deserve great praise for the work they are doing.

The Golden Hour Club have fortnightly meetings in the Watson Hall and the attendance is up to 100. The Club has numerous activities, culminating in the Annual Sale of Work which realised over £300 in 1955. Forty-four exhibits were sent to the Old Folk's Handicraft Exhibition held at Torquay in September, 1955, and the Club was given 42 awards.

Under the chiropody scheme, 329 treatments (some at home) were given, at a cost to the old folks of 1/6d., the Committee bearing the rest.

The Meals on Wheels Service takes to 10 old people every week a hot meal from the County School Meals Depot, and half the cost (1/6d.) is paid by the Committee.

Home visits are paid, and also visits to the local hospitals and residential homes.

It is the hope of the Committee to obtain premises which could be open daily, for rest, recreation and handwork classes and to serve as their headquarters.



## CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

### 1. CHILD WELFARE CENTRE

This Centre is under the general administration of the Area Sub-Committee of the County Council, which includes members of this Council. It is held weekly in the Town Hall and is run by a Voluntary Committee.

It is proposed to move this Centre to new and more satisfactory premises at the old Boys' Grammar School in the near future. Very valuable work is done at this Centre, as will be seen from the figures in Table 4, and thanks are due to the excellent work done by the local Voluntary Committee and helpers.

**Table 4**

No. of Sessions	No. of First Attendances		Total No. of Attendances		
	Under 1	Over 1	Under 1	Over 1	Total
51	76	33	791	428	1328

### 2. TEWKESBURY CLINIC. Municipal Offices.

This Clinic opens as follows:—

Orthopaedic Clinic: Once weekly on Tuesdays, attended by an Orthopaedic Nurse.

Ante-Natal Clinic: Weekly on Wednesday afternoons.

Speech Therapy Clinic: Twice weekly on Thursdays and Fridays.

Deaf and Dumb Clinic: Fortnightly (Monday evenings).

### TEWKESBURY HOSPITAL

Ophthalmic Clinic: Monthly (first Tuesday in the month).

Orthopaedic Clinic: Monthly (second Thursday in the month).

Chest Clinic: The Chest Physician attends fortnightly or as required.

Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic: Held as required.

It is hoped to centralise the County Clinics, including Dental and also the Child Welfare Centre, at new accommodation at the old Boys' Grammar School in the near future.

## MORTUARIES

If necessary, use is made of the Tewkesbury Hospital Mortuary at a charge of £1 5s. od. for each case.



# SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE BOROUGH

## Water Supplies

### MAIN SUPPLIES

Water is supplied in bulk to the Corporation by the Cheltenham and Gloucester Joint Water Board, whose purification works lie within the Borough.

The water is drawn from the River Severn and is purified by means of sedimentation with alum, rapid sand filtration and chlorination.

Regular chemical and bacteriological analyses are carried out and the results shown in Table 5 were supplied by the courtesy of the Resident Chemist (J. Henderson, Esq., B.Sc., F.R.I.C.).

**Table 5**

SUPPLY	Bacteriological Analyses		Chemical Analyses	
	Satis.	Unsatis.	Satis.	Unsatis.
Raw river water ...	—	83	—	750
Treated river water ...	277	—	1552	—
Domestic water ...	466	—	555	—

### Main Water Supplies in the Borough

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health, Table 6 shows the number of houses and population served on the 31st December, 1955.

**Table 6**

No. of houses with main supply in house (estimated)	Pop.	No. of Houses served by stand pipes (estimated)	Pop.
1640	4902	122	445

New connexions made to public mains during the year: 55.

Extensions of mains during the year: Nil.

## Other Supplies

Table 7 shows the houses in the Borough without main water.

**Table 7**

Address			Water Supply	No. of houses	Population served
1 Trinity Walk	...	...	Well	1	2
Rayer's Hill Cottages	...	...	"	1	3
Upper Lode Locks	...	...	"	1	2
Kennel's Cottage	...	...	"	1	2
The Mythe Hook	...	...	River	3	9
Upper Lode Locks	...	...	"	1	13
Avon Lock Cottage	...	...	"	1	2
Total	...	...		9	33

With the exception of No. 1 Trinity Walk, where the cost of providing a piped supply is almost prohibitive, main supplies are not readily available, though a scheme involving the laying of a pipe from the main at Cork's Hill to Upper Lode Locks is under consideration by the Docks and Inland Waterways Executive.

It is pleasing to record that only 9 out of the 1,771 houses in the Borough are without main water.

## **SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND REFUSE COLLECTION**

### **Sewerage**

Steady progress was made in constructing the new sewage works and pumping station at Newtown. During April the pumps at this station were brought in service. Work on the main pumping station was continually delayed owing to floods and it was not until December, 1955, that partial pumping from this station was commenced. There are still a few items to be completed and until the sewer pipe which had to be cut is repaired, full operating cannot be undertaken, but as soon as weather permits, a new penstock chamber will be built to reconnect this sewer and then the whole of the sewage can be dealt with.

### **Refuse Collection**

A new Thorneycroft 10 cu. yd. vehicle was purchased and came into operation in January, 1955. This reduced the number of visits to the tip and effected a saving in time, but collecting from the new houses completed during the year has practically absorbed this time margin. The collections have been carried out as in former years on a weekly basis, with an additional collection from hotels, cafes, etc.

The scheme for the collection of waste paper from business premises on Thursday afternoons has worked exceptionally well and no complaints have been received. Though the quantity collected is not as great as one would anticipate it is showing a small profit.

### **Refuse Receptacles**

The Council provides bins for its own tenants but the receptacles provided at private dwelling-houses are not always satisfactory, and the condition of the bins is noted and, if necessary, reported to landlords during or as a result of routine housing inspections.

### **Latrine Accommodation**

Many of the older houses in the town are still served by closets not equipped with automatic flushing apparatus; nevertheless their numbers steadily dwindle as the houses are closed or demolished or improvements effected.

### **Public Lavatories**

The Borough is fairly well served with Public Lavatories, with the exception of the neighbourhood of the bus stop in Church Street. Their provision in this area has been under consideration for some years.

### **Public Baths**

Six slipper baths are provided by the Council in Mill Street.

### **Swimming Baths and Pools**

The plans and estimates for the small swimming pool were approved by the Ministry and work on its construction was commenced in October, 1955. A meeting of the townsfolk was called with a view to raising money for providing a bigger filter plant, etc., but nothing materialised and the scheme is going forward as originally proposed, except that the filter house is being increased in size to enable a bigger plant to be fitted, should the opportunity ever present itself, while the bath itself is also being constructed so that it can be extended at some future date.

### **Rivers and Streams**

During the year, one complaint was made to the Severn River Board, whose duty it is to enforce the provisions of the Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act, 1951.



## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

A summary of the work carried out by the Public Health Department is given in the following table.

**Table 8**

	No. of Inspec's	Notices Served		Defects Remedied after Notice	
		Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal
Dwelling Houses ...	286	17	3	15	1
Milk and Dairies ...	6	1	—	1	—
Factories, etc. ...	25	3	—	3	—
Bakehouses ...	4	—	—	—	—
Food Premises ...	26	3	—	3	—
Slaughterhouses ...	228	—	—	—	—
Water Supplies ...	7	1	1	1	1
Drainage and Sewerage...	31	14	—	14	—
Infectious Disease ...	22 (Disinfection carried out as required)				
Pests ...	49	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous ...	83	9	—	9	—
Totals ...	767	48	4	46	2

### Shops Act, 1950

The Council's part-time Inspector reports that there were no breaches of the statutory hours of closing during the year.

Securing compliance with Section 38 of the Act, which controls environmental factors affecting the health of shop assistants, devolves upon this Department. Sixteen inspections were made and in two cases material improvements resulted.

### Offensive Trades

There are no offensive trades established in the district.

### Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951

An upholsterer's premises were registered during the year. The premises were visited twice and on each occasion it was noted that the packages of filling materials bore the British Standards Institution's kite mark.

### Petroleum Consolidation Acts, 1928-1936

Sixteen licences to store petroleum are held in respect of depots throughout the Borough. One leak was detected and safety precautions were immediately put into operation. Inspections of all the depots were undertaken and generally storage arrangements were found to be satisfactory.

### **Pet Animals Act, 1951**

Two Pet Shops are licensed by the Council, one for the breeding and selling of dogs and the other for selling tropical fish. Two visits gave no cause for complaint.

### **Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952**

#### **Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Regulations, 1953**

No action was necessary during the year.

### **Canal Boats Acts and Regulations, 1877-1925**

No action has been taken during the year.

### **Smoke Abatement**

Complaints of the emission of dust from a flour mill and of smoke from railway locomotives plying along a branch line running through the town were received and investigated.

### **Disinfestation (Bed Bugs, Fleas, etc.)**

Three infestations were treated with "Gammexane" smoke generators and "Pyagra" spray insecticide.

If necessary, houses from which tenants are rehoused in Council houses are disinfested.

### **Camping Sites**

The Council own one large camping site in Vineyards Park accommodating about 150 tents without congestion; this is used mainly during August. Elsan lavatories, main-water standpipes and refuse bins are provided. Under consideration is the provision of water closets.

A Caravan site adjacent to the Municipal Car Park and Public Baths and Lavatories and with room for 30 to 40 caravans is also in municipal ownership.

One private camping site to take 12 caravans is licensed by the Council.

## RODENT CONTROL

### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The arrangements whereby the services of a rodent operator are shared with Cheltenham Rural District Council have worked efficiently throughout the year. Details of the arrangements were set out in my Report for 1950.

The following is a summary of the work carried out in the Borough:—

**Table 9**

Property	Inspections	Treatments
Private Dwellings ... ..	17	13
Council Houses, Allotments, etc. ...	7	5
Farms ... ..	10	8
Business Premises ... ..	83	59
Refuse Tips and Sewage Works ...	14	16
Total ...	131	101

Additionally, two maintenance treatments of the sewers in the district were completed in March and September.

**Details of Work carried out on Refuse Tips and Sewage Works**  
**Table 10**

Property	Action Taken	Result
Gander Lane Tip ...	Pre-baited and poisoned Four treatments	Satisfactory
Walton Cardiff Tip ...	Pre-baited and poisoned Six treatments	Satisfactory
Oldfield Tip ...	Pre-baited and poisoned Six treatments	Satisfactory
Sewage Works ...	Six Inspections	Satisfactory

The cost of this service is recovered in part as follows:—

PRIVATE DWELLINGS: A small charge is made (nil in necessitous cases) and the balance is subject to a 50% grant from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and Food.

BUSINESS PREMISES AND FARMS: The Council has nine contracts with business premises and farms; other premises can obtain treatment on payment of full cost.

COUNCIL PROPERTY: Half the cost is recoverable from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.



## HOUSING

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) By the Local Authority			
(i) Temporary prefabricated	...	...	Nil
(ii) Permanent non-traditional	...	...	Nil
(iii) Permanent traditional	...	...	59
(b) By other authorities	...	...	Nil
(c) Tewkesbury Housing Society	...	...	Nil
(d) Private Enterprise (Tewkesbury Trading Estate	...	...	10
Total			69

In comparison with the previous year, the increases in the number of houses erected are: Council-owned 28; privately owned 3.

### **Council Houses under construction on 31st December, 1955**

Traditional Houses:

Oldfield Estate      ...      ...      29

### **Programme for 1956**

Development of a site at Newtown of 5 acres having space for approximately 50 houses.

### **Number of Dwellings controlled or owned by the Council (up to 31st December, 1955)**

(i) Under the various Housing Acts	...	...	623
(ii) Corporation Property	...	...	8
(iii) Lock-up Shops	...	...	9
Total			640



## HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT 1954

Part I of this Act requires Local Authorities to submit proposals for dealing with unfit houses in their Districts considered only fit for demolition or for inclusion in clearance areas.

A total of 200 houses was considered to come into these categories. In August, 1955, the Council submitted to the Ministry their proposal that 97 properties be dealt with in a first 5-year programme, and the remainder, 103, within a second 5-year programme. Additions or amendments to this figure can be made by the Council to the Ministry.

The housing ideal in a District is to have all houses satisfying Model By-law Standards, and even when the Council have dealt with the above 200 houses, there will still be another batch of the worst houses in the District to be dealt with, and so on, for, I am afraid, a good many years.

### Statutory Action during the year with respect to totally unfit houses

1. *Housing Act, 1936, Section 11—Demolition Orders.*

(a) Number of demolition orders recommended ...	1
(b) Number of demolition orders made by Council	1
(c) Number of undertakings accepted not to use dwellings for human habitation ... ..	2
(d) Number of houses on which a demolition order was operative but where application for re-conditioning was accepted (Section 5, Housing Repairs and Rents Act) ... ..	Nil
(e) Number of Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal action ... ..	Nil
  
2. *Housing Act, 1936, Section 25—Clearance Areas.*

(a) Number of houses demolished in Clearance or Compulsory Purchase Areas ... ..	22
(b) Clearance Orders made during the year ...	1
(c) Clearance Orders under consideration ... ..	2
(d) Compulsory Purchase Orders made during the year ... ..	Nil
(e) Compulsory Purchase Orders under consideration ... ..	Nil
  
3. *Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.*

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	4
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---

## HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV.

### Overcrowding

There is little doubt that the number of overcrowded families is being reduced.

### Clearance Areas

(i) Spring Gardens Compulsory Purchase Order, 1954.

Good progress was made in demolishing the 28 houses in this area. All the families of the 22 houses demolished have been rehoused.

(ii) Sweets Court Clearance Order, 1955.

This area consisting of 6 houses was confirmed by the Ministry on 6th September, 1955, and all the occupants were rehoused in 1955.

Two other areas are under consideration by the Council, viz:

Wilkes's Alley	...	...	7 houses
Well Alley	...	...	5 houses

## REPORT ON RE-HOUSING PROGRESS

### by the Housing Manager

The number of dwellings completed during the year was 59; nearly twice as many as in 1954. These and other vacancies enabled 72 families to be rehoused and a further 44 transfers made to obtain best use of accommodation. It will be noted that there was only a very slight increase in the number of housing applications registered at the end of the year.

The higher proportion of smaller dwellings now under construction should lead to further tenants being persuaded to apply for transfer. Thus it is hoped that a progressive reduction in the amount of under-occupation of Council property may be brought about.

An analysis of the housing waiting list is given below:—

O.A.P.'s	1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4 bed	Total
21	92	91	56	8	268
8%	34%	34%	21%	3%	100%

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

In Ministry of Health Circular 7/55 a request was made that the Public Health Department should include a detailed report on food premises in the Borough. Table 11 gives the relevant particulars.

**Table 11**

Type of Business	Total Number	No. of Inspect's	Remarks
Cafes and Canteens	18	4	These include four school canteens and one cooking depot.
Grocery and Provision Shops	49	2	These include sweet shops and chemists.
Ice Cream Vendors	31	3	Registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.
Butchers' Shops	8	7	Seven premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.
Fishmongers	4	3	This includes fried and wet fish shops.
Bakehouses	5	4	These premises are also visited by H.M. Inspector of Factories
Licensed Premises and Hotels	26	2	Improvements have been carried out at two premises during the past year.
Dairies	1	1	Regular visits are also paid to these premises by the County Sanitary Inspector.

There were no special examinations of stocks or consignments of food during the year and the small quantities of food condemned were disposed of with the normal refuse or kitchen waste.



## MILK SUPPLIES

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food supervise the production of milk at dairy farms and the County Council exercises control over the treatment of milk at the Pasteurising Plant situated in the Borough.

The Borough is a "Specified Area" and only specially designated milks may be sold therein. It is therefore not surprising that, during the year, there was no need to apply the Council's powers under Regulation 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, for halting the spread of milk-borne diseases.

Tables 12, 13 and 14 give information of the number of licensed dealers, registered distributors and of retail milk samples.

**Table 12      Issue of Licences for Milk Dealers**

Classification of Milk		Dealers' Licences	Supplementary Licences
Tuberculin Tested	...	8	3
Pasteurised	...	8	3
Sterilised	...	—	—

**Table 13                      Milk Registrations**

No. of Milk Distributors Registered	...	9
No. Dairy Premises Registered	...	2

**Table 14                      Retail Milk Sampling**

Nature of Test	Result of Examination	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Methylene Blue (keeping quality) ...	16	—
Biological (presence of T.B., B. Abortus, etc.) ...	2	—
Phosphatase (effic. of pasteurisation)	11	—

The cleanliness and bacterial content of the milks retailed in the Borough continue to reach a high standard.

### Anthrax Order, 1938

No case was reported during the year.



### **Foot and Mouth Disease**

The Borough and neighbouring authorities were free from this disease and standstill orders were unnecessary.

### **Swine Fever Order, 1938**

No action was necessary during the year.

### **Meat and Other Foods**

One private slaughterhouse is licensed by the Council and is in almost daily use. A high standard has been maintained at all times and it is gratifying to note that a 100% inspection of all animals slaughtered has been possible.

### **Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933-54**

Two slaughtermen's licences were issued during the year.

**Table 15 Carcasses and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part**

	Cattle excl. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses	Total
Number killed (if known) ... ..	167	25	57	1117	557	—	1923
Number inspected ...	167	25	57	1117	557	—	1923
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci							
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	38	10	2	35	25	—	110
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	22.8	44.0	3.5	3.1	4.5	—	—
Tuberculosis only :							
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	10	4	—	—	21	—	35
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	6.0	16.0	—	—	3.8	—	—
Cysticercosis :							
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Total weight of meat or organs condemned for :-	<i>lbs.</i>
(i) All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci	1253
(ii) Tuberculosis ... ..	390
(iii) Cysticercosis ... ..	—

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Notification is made to this Department when hotels, shops, or individuals have any food which is suspected of being unsound. The following table shows the articles dealt with and declared to be unfit for human consumption.

**Table 16**

Article	Fresh	Preserved
Meats ... ..	—	153 lbs.
Milk and Cream ... ..	—	7 „
Fish and Fish Cakes ... ..	21 lbs.	4 „
Fruits (various) ... ..	—	208 „
Vegetables (various) ... ..	—	45 „
Miscellaneous ... ..	—	10 „

Total weight of foodstuffs: 4 cwts.

This is a reduction of approximately  $5\frac{1}{2}$  cwts. on the figure for 1954. These figures do not include meat condemned at the local slaughterhouse, details of which are given on page 22.

### Ice-Cream

There are 30 registered retailers of ice-cream in the Borough, of which four manufacture their own, the remainder purchasing ice-cream produced outside the district.

### Adulteration

The sampling of foodstuffs for the detection of adulteration, etc., is undertaken by the County Council.

### Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

These Regulations aim at improving the storage, preparation and handling of food and come into force partly on the 1st January, 1956, and partly on the 1st July, 1956.

As there are over 100 premises in the Borough to which these Regulations will apply, they are of considerable importance.

# ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948

**Table 17**

## 1. Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health

Premises	No. of Premises in Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sect. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	3	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	40	19	2	—
(iii) Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers) ...	5	4	1	—
Total ...	48	25	3	—

**Table 18**

## 2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	No. of cases where defects were found				No. of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M.I.	by H.M.I.	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temp. (S. 3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Vent. (S. 4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	—	—	—	—	—
Latrines (S. 7)					
(a) insufficient	1	1	—	1	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	1	—
(c) not separate for sexes	1	1	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including Homework)	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	4	4	—	2	—

### Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

No outworkers were reported in the Borough during the year.



## INFECTIOUS DISEASE

### Diphtheria

The following table shows the number of children immunised by the County Staff and General Practitioners in 1955.

**Table 19**

Primary immunisation (usually during infancy)	Maintenance immunisations (usually during school life)	Total
95	129	224

Diphtheria is now, thanks to immunisation, which this Council started in their area in 1937, almost a disease of the past. In 1936 there were 57,796 cases in England and Wales whereas in 1955 there were only 161.

As all cases of diphtheria need hospital treatment the great financial saving to the country is very obvious, and this is apart from the saving of life where the deaths have dropped from over 3,000 in 1936 to 11 in 1955.

It is not yet the time to reduce our efforts towards mass immunisation in spite of the fact that there has been no case of diphtheria in the district since 1946.

### Whooping Cough

In 1955 the County Council adopted an official scheme for the immunisation of infants against whooping cough.

This scheme involves injections and is carried out either at the Child Welfare Centre or at doctors' surgeries.

### Smallpox and Typhoid

No cases occurred and no contacts were notified as coming into the Borough and requiring supervision.

### Infantile Paralysis (Acute poliomyelitis)

Not a single notification was received throughout the year.

### Food Poisoning

No cases were notified during the year.

### Infectious Disease in Schools

Table 20 shows the incidence of infectious disease according to weekly returns submitted during term time by head teachers.

The figures cannot be considered absolutely accurate as many cases are reported on hearsay. The table is of interest as it shows the incidence of chickenpox and mumps which are not notified by General Practitioners.

**Table 20**

School	Av'r'ge No. on Regis'r	Scarlet Fever	Mea'l's	Wh'ng Cough	Chi'k'n Pox	Mu'ps	'Flu
Trinity Walk (C. of E. Infants)	266	5	83	13	6	3	—
Barton Road (County Junior)	177	—	9	—	—	—	—
Oldbury Road (C. of E. Junior)	206	—	6	1	—	—	—
Chance Street (Sec. Modern)	467	—	—	—	—	—	—
Southwick Park (Grammar)	149	—	—	—	—	—	—
Church Street (Girls High)	170	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	1435	5	98	14	6	3	—

It was not considered necessary to close any schools because of infectious disease and in accordance with the recommendation of the Joint Memorandum issued by the Ministries of Health and Education.

## TUBERCULOSIS

**Table 21**

**New, In-Transfer Cases, Deaths and Number remaining  
on the Register on 31st December, 1955**

	Respiratory		Meninges/C N.S.		Other Forms		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
New Cases	3	1	—	—	—	—	4
In-transfer Cases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
On Register 31.12.55	20	19	—	—	—	—	39

**Table 22 This Table shews the new cases, in transfers  
and deaths from Tuberculosis, for the last 21  
years**

Year	Pop. of Borough	New and I.T. Cases	Per 1000 Pop.	Deaths	Per 1000 Pop.	No. on Register	Per 1000 Pop.
1935	4537	4	0.88	5	1.1	30	6.6
1936	4441	5	1.12	5	1.12	30	6.72
1937	4357	4	0.91	4	0.91	26	5.9
1938	4334	11	2.53	4	0.92	25	5.7
1939	No Annual Reports or figures available						
1940							
1941							
1942	4830	8	1.65	1	0.20	40	8.3
1943	4589	3	0.65	2	0.43	43	9.4
1944	4431	9	2.03	3	0.68	51	11.5
1945	4401	8	1.81	3	0.68	40	9.1
1946	4540	5	1.10	1	0.22	36	7.9
1947	4614	6	1.29	4	0.86	36	7.8
1948	4856	6	1.24	1	0.20	33	6.8
1949	5111	6	1.17	1	0.19	34	6.6
1950	5247	2	0.38	1	0.19	32	6.1
1951	5233	10	1.90	—	—	36	6.8
1952	5446	11	2.02	1	0.18	39	7.1
1953	5408	7	1.29	—	—	43	7.9
1954	5410	4	0.74	—	—	41	7.6
1955	5380	4	0.74	1	0.18	39	7.2

The death rate in 1955 from tuberculosis in England and Wales was 0.146 per 1000 population.

Tuberculosis has become a much less serious disease in the last few decades, and is now not the important cause of death that it used to be. Owing to modern medical and surgical treatment, fewer



people die of tuberculosis, but this means that more cases survive and are under treatment, and for some years may not be able to lead a normal working life.

Tuberculosis is now like other infectious diseases, notifiable weekly to the Registrar General and the responsibility for keeping a correct register of cases has devolved on to Regional Hospital Boards. However, it is still necessary for the Local Authority to keep a register, from the aspects of housing, food production and After-care help.

It will be seen from Table 22 that there has not been any striking reduction in the incidence of new cases in the last 21 years, although the numbers have been satisfactorily low in the last two years. The total number of cases in the Borough likewise shows little change. However, the mortality from tuberculosis shows very great improvement and is only one-sixth of what it was in 1935.

**Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925  
Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 172)**

No action has been taken under the above Regulations and Act.

**Re-housing of Tuberculosis Cases**

As good housing is one of the essentials in the cure and prevention of tuberculosis, cases where this is unsatisfactory are reported to the Housing Committee who are most co-operative, and as a result, of the 39 cases in the Borough, 22 are living in Council houses.

**Tuberculosis After-Care**

A joint committee serves this Borough and the Rural Districts of Gloucester and Newent. Except for a grant for stationery, postage, etc., it is entirely dependent on voluntary subscriptions, of which every penny goes to assist tuberculosis cases. It serves a very useful purpose, and, so far, no deserving case has been refused help.

**CANCER**

The following mortality figures are of interest and shew that the death rate in the Borough is quite considerably below that for England and Wales.

Death rates from Cancer per 1000 population :—

	England and Wales		Tewkesbury Borough	
	M	F	M	F
Cancer of the Lung, etc.	0.69	0.10	Nil	Nil
Other Cancer	1.56	1.77	0.74	1.67



Table 23 NOTIFICATION OF INFECTION DISEASES IN 1955 BY AGE GROUPS

Disease	0+	1+	3+	5+	10+	15+	25+	45+	65+	Age N.K.	Total
Scarlet Fever	...	...	4	10	...	1	...	...	...	...	15
Whooping Cough	3	3	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Measles (excluding G.M.)	11	39	78	86	3	...	1	...	...	...	218
Ac. Polio-myelitis (P)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ac. Polio-myelitis (N.P.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	4
Tuberculosis (Meninges)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis (Other)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ac. Encephalitis (Inf.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ac. Encephalitis (Post. Inf.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	4	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	7
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	3
Acute Pneumonia (Prim. or 'Flu)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Para-typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria (contr. E. W.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	14	46	84	100	3	4	6	1	1	...	259

## CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BOROUGH IN 1955

Table 24 gives the causes of death in the Borough in accordance with the abbreviated list of 36 groups of the World Health Organisation Nomenclature Regulations, 1948.

**Table 24**

Causes of Death				Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...
7.	Acute Polio-myelitis	...	...	...	...
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...
10.	* Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	4	6
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	6	10
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	8	1
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	12	10
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	2	2
22.	Influenza	...	...	1	...
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	2	1
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	1	...
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	1	...
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	1	...
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	1	...
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	6	6
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	2	...
34.	All other accidents	...	...	1	2
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...
Total				48	42

EXPLANATORY NOTE: \* Neoplasm equals cancer.



